



## Mitigation Project in Yellowstone

### Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

#### *Park County, Montana*

**Park County, MT** - Park County experienced a record flood on the Yellowstone River in June 1996. The river maintained a very high flow for over a week, causing massive bank erosion and floods in a number of houses.

In June 1997, the Yellowstone River produced another record flood. More bank erosion occurred, and the same houses were flooded again. Both floods were on par with the 100-year, one percent frequency flood.

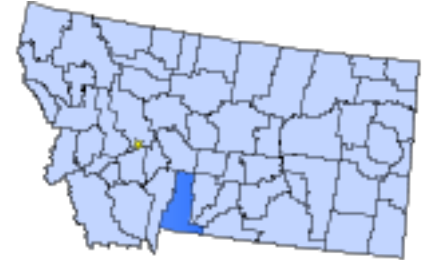
Mitigation obviously was needed for the residential structures, yet relocation was out of the question due to the price of land in the area - known as Paradise Valley.

Many property owners did not have the resources necessary to mitigate the flooding problem. But with help from FEMA and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP), funding was available to assist in mitigating hazards.

One property owner took advantage of this program. He worked with the County, which acted as the applicant, and applied a grant to elevate his house. Park County applied for a FMAP grant to the DNRC Floodplain Management Program. The grant was awarded in February 1998.

The project consisted of simply elevating the house to the standards identified in the Park county Floodplain Management Ordinance. The centers contracted with a house mover to elevate the structure and place a new foundation under the structure. Once the foundation was completed, the house was set back down and the fill material was placed around the structure for foundation protection. The project was completed in less than a month, except for final landscaping.

The benefits are simple. The structure, now elevated two feet about the 100-year flood elevation, will not experience flood damage to the structure, even during a 500-year event. As a result, there should be far fewer flood insurance claims in the future. The Benefit Cost Ratio should prove to be greater than 1:1.



#### Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Single County (County-wide)**

FEMA Region: **Region VIII**

State: **Montana**

County: **Park County**

### Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Private**  
Hazard Type: **Flooding**  
Activity/Project Type: **Flood Control**  
Activity/Project Start Date: **02/1998**  
Activity/Project End Date: **Ongoing**  
Funding Source: **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)**

### Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **\$18,304.00 (Actual)**

### Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal  
Disaster? **Unknown**  
Value Tested By Disaster? **Unknown**  
Repetitive Loss Property? **Unknown**

### Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: <http://www.floodsmart.gov/>  
Reference URL 2: <http://www.state.mt.us/dma/des/default.asp>

### Main Points

- Mitigation obviously was needed for the residential structures, yet relocation was out of the question due to the price of land and lots in the area - known as Paradise Valley.
- Many property owners did not have the resources necessary to mitigate the flooding problem. But thanks to FEMA and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP), funding was available to assist in mitigating hazards.
- Park County applied for a FMAP grant to the DNRC Floodplain Management Program. The grant was awarded in February 1998.